

**REMARKS**

Applicant(s) have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of June 4, 2003. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

**The Office Action**

Claim 1 stands rejected based on a judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,417,631. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as claim 1 as originally presented calls for the ballast to be an HID ballast, and for the HID ballast to be a single stage device. This subject matter is not claimed in the aforementioned claim 3 of U.S. Patent No. '631. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of claim 1 as Applicants submit this language does provide a patentable distinction from the subject matter for claim 3 of U.S. Patent No. '631.

As claims 9, 10 and 11 further define concepts of distinguished claim 1, it is submitted these claims are also not appropriately rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Claim 12 has also been amended to include previously noted to be allowable subject matter of claim 2, including the high frequency level shifting circuit incorporated to receive the high frequency voltage signal and supply a boosted high frequency voltage signal to the load. It is respectfully submitted that claim 12 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 has been amended to make it an independent claim. As claim 4 originally contained allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is in condition for allowance. Further, new claims 13-15 have been added. These claims are dependent on claim 4, and are in condition for allowance.

With regards to claim 9, the applicant respectfully submits that the protection circuit is identified in Figure 1. With respect to the components of the protection circuit, the specification identifies and defines all of the components of the protection circuitry. The discussion of the protection circuitry begins at paragraph 0031. Each

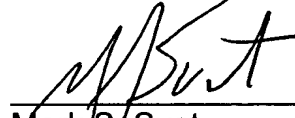
component of the protection circuitry is identified in the specification and is currently defined on Figure 1. For example, at paragraph 0033, the specification indicates: "With further attention to the protection circuitry of HID ballast **10**, resistor - **100** is placed in series with the source of FET **30**." As the protection circuitry is composed of several components, the applicant feels that the specification defines and points out the circuitry in a clear and precise manner in figure 1. The applicant respectfully submits that the drawings and claim 9 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 was amended to reflect the description of the switching section in claim 1. As claim 1 refers to a switching section, this claim further describes the characteristics of the switching section. There is no longer insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation.

**CONCLUSION**

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted that independent **claims 1, 4, 12**, and claims depending therefrom, in the present patent application, are in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,  
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP



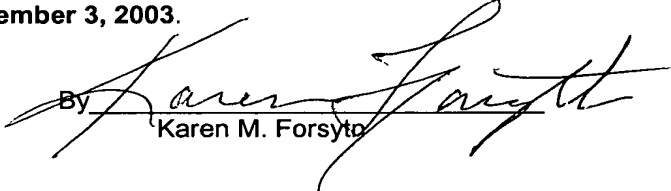
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Mark S. Svat  
Reg. No. 34,261  
1100 Superior Avenue, 7th Floor  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2518  
(216) 861-5582

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this Amendment A is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on **September 3, 2003**.

By



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Karen M. Forsyth